

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 1, 2004

The Honorable Kofi Annan
Secretary General
The United Nations
871 United Nations Plz
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

As those who support the United Nations mission to strive for more relevancy in today's world, we are deeply troubled that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has been asked by the General Assembly (GA) to issue an advisory opinion on the legality of the security fence Israel is building and that you have supported this effort. We respectfully request that you reconsider your stance and urge you to act so that the ICJ does not take up the issue.

We believe the ICJ should not address the legality of the security fence because an ICJ opinion on this issue would politicize the court and could seriously damage its reputation and credibility. The GA resolution was a purely political maneuver intended to embarrass Israel rather than a serious request for judicial oversight of a security problem. Its failure to make any reference to Palestinian acts of terror, the very reason for the construction of the fence in the first place, shows its one-sided and political nature. Clearly, other members of the GA had similar misgivings, which is why the resolution itself did not even garner the support of the majority of the GA's members.

At the United Nations Conference on terrorism held in New York in September 2003, you clearly stated that "terrorism is a global threat, and it can never be justified. No end can give anyone the right to kill innocent civilians." As you know, the only reason Israel is building this security fence is in response to three years of suicide bombings and shootings by Palestinian extremists that has claimed over 900 innocent Israeli lives.

Israel has no less of a right to defend its citizens than other nations of the world, and the security fence is a major part of this defense effort, particularly since the Palestinian Authority refuses to take any action against terrorism. Israel has reiterated the purely security needs for this fence, has declared that it is not to be seen as permanent, and continues to aspire to political settlement with a Palestinian Authority that can credibly deliver on its commitments to security. The GA's request for an ICJ advisory opinion is a blatant attempt to manipulate the United Nations system for clearly political purposes.

Accordingly, we urge reversal of support for the ICJ's examination of the fence issue and we urge encouraging the ICJ not to rule on this political issue.

Sincerely,

William Rodham Clinton

John F. Kennedy

Franklin D. Roosevelt

John F. Kennedy

Robert A. Taft

Alfred V. Thayer

Frank R. Fortson

Jim Johnson

Richard Shelby

John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy

Bill Nelson

Donald S. Douglas

Byron D. Simpson

Lee Wyden

John H. Johnson

Wah K. H. H.

James H. H.

John (Cory)

Alan Rose

Wayne Allen

Wayne J. Franklin

Dick Dr.

Chris DM

Raymond Franklin

Mike E.

John Brown

John F. Brown
Harry Murphy

Ray Bailey Johnson

Rick Sautman

Pat G. F. K. K. K.

Frank R. K. K.

John Edwards

Jack Chan

Q. V. S.

John F. K. K.

Mark D. K.

Frank Lett

Alvin Brown

Art Bond

John Engr

Carl Fourn

Lon Noble

Jack Reed

Neil Logan

Sam B. Muntak

Maria Cantwell

Mike Engr

E. O. Bingham

Henry M. M.

Em Engr

Jan R. Ruppel

John Engr

Barbara Engr

Marcus Engr

Don Engr

Sharon Collins

Chuck Shockey

Albert F. Bennett

James M. Clark

Barbara Roper

Ed Craft
Jm M/K

Delia Salazar

John McIn

Just Love

You Thank

Michelle

Laura Alexander

Ed Murray

Sam R

William H. Frost

Max Bruce

Alwyn